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Prayer-book!

W. Collins

A

MANUAL OF PRAYERS

AND

A Guide to the Christian Life.

ARRANGED, AND IN PART COMPOSED,

BY

MORGAN DIX, S.T.D.,
RECTOR OF TRINITY CHURCH, NEW YORK.

REVISED EDITION.

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PREFACE.

A LIFE of faith and holy obedience in the Church of Christ, where the intellect is illuminated by her dogmatic teaching through the Creed, the conduct regulated by her laws and precepts, and the will strengthened by the grace of GOD conveyed through her sacraments and sacramental rites, is the certain way to Heaven. No one who leads that life can be lost.

Christ and the Church are one, they cannot be divided; to speak of Christ without the Church, or of bringing men into Christ and keeping them in Him without connection with the Church, is to speak without authority. Christ is not what some seem to think Him, an influence, a moral force, a Character transforming other characters by its ex-

ample; but Christ, as the Holy Scriptures represent Him, is the Head of a Body, the Personal Ruler of a Visible Kingdom. Other representations of Him may be given, and are given in these days; but none are authentic in which the Head is shorn from the Body, or the King driven from His Empire. To be saved, men must be "added to the Church;" they must live in her, hold the faith as she hath received it, employ her means of grace, fulfill all righteousness, and depart hence in her Communion.

This Manual of the Christian Life was first published A. D. 1856. In the main it was an adaptation from an English work, considerably altered to suit our times and people. It was intended for the hard-working folk and the poor, who were then my special and beloved charge; but others in different positions in life found it useful and told me so, with gratifying testimony

to what God had done for them by its instrumentality. I think that more than 10,000 copies must have been sold thus far. It is now republished in a new edition; some few things have been added, at the suggestion of friends; scarcely any changes have been made; those who knew it in the old form will perceive that it is the same in its new shape and dress.

The world changes; times change; schools of thought change; all things around us alter; the sinful heart, the unsteady, wavering life remain as they were. We need no new Creed, no new Religion; there is, and can be nothing new to believe; the Rule of a Holy Life is the same now as ever. The taunt of immobility will disturb no man who stands in his lot, keeps the faith, and declines to try experiments or race after novel inventions. It is enough to reflect, when we hear the praise of new discoveries and departures in religion,

and are invited to join in attempts to readjust Christ and the Church to the Spirit of the Age, that "*in* GOD *is no variableness, neither shadow of turning,*" and that JESUS CHRIST *is the same, yesterday, and to-day, and forever.*" The Church is the Body of that unchanging Lord; the life to be led in her, as the sure preparation for heaven, is substantially the same in this age, that it was in the first and shall be in the last.

I hope that this little Manual may still prove of use to those who believe in the Old Ways, and desire to lead orderly lives under the laws of the Church, instead of running uncertainly on their own impulses; and where this is the case, I request that the compiler be remembered in one brief prayer that he also may keep the Catholic Faith whole and undefiled to the end, under the guiding of GOD the HOLY GHOST.

WHITSUNTIDE, A. D. 1884.

Offices for Daily Prayer.

"In the evening, and morning, and at noon-day will I pray, and that instantly: and He shall hear my voice."
—*Psalm*, lv. 18.

Devotions for Daily Use.

MORNING.

On first opening the eyes, say either aloud or to yourself,

AWAKE, O my soul, and give praise unto GOD. Glory be to Thee, O LORD, who hast saved me from the dangers of the night.

LORD, raise me up at the Last Day—in the Resurrection of the just.

When dressed, kneel down as before your GOD. *Stop awhile in silence, to think that His eye is upon you. Think that to pray without heed is to take God's name in vain. Then begin to say as follows:*

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

O GOD, make speed to save us:
O LORD, make haste to help us.

Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

O LORD, I give thanks to Thee, for that Thou hast kept me in the past night from all evils, bodily and spiritual; and I beseech Thee for Thy mercies' sake, to raise me up at the Last Day to life everlasting. Give me grace, now in the time of this mortal life, to cast off the works of darkness, and to walk as a child of the light; and do Thou preserve me this day from all sin, from all perils and dangers, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake. Amen.

O GOD, whose mercies fail not, but

are new every morning, pardon the sins that I have committed against Thee, in thought, word and deed; make me to be sorry for them with the godly sorrow that worketh repentance unto salvation; put far from me all evil ways and works; save me from the enemy of my soul; and grant me Thy peace all the days of my life; through our only Saviour and Redeemer, JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

I commend to Thee, O LORD, my soul and my body, my thoughts, words, and works, my life and my death: the Church and my pastor, my parents and relations [*here name them, and any for whom you wish to pray*], and all the world. Amen.

Then rise up and say, bowing the head,

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was

in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

NOON.

If you have any time to yourself at noon, give a little of that time to GOD; *though it be but a minute or two, it will bring you a reward from your Father in Heaven.*

Learn these following words by heart and say them to yourself at that time:

In the evening and morning, and at noonday, will I pray, and that instantly, and He shall hear my voice.

Pardon for the past, and strength for the future, grant me, O LORD. Amen.

LORD, have mercy on us;
CHRIST, have mercy on us;
LORD, have mercy on us.

If not at work, and alone, kneel down for a minute or two, and say,

In the Name of the Father, and of

the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

O Saviour of the world, who by Thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed us, save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O LORD.

Grant, we beseech Thee, merciful LORD, to Thy faithful people, pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve Thee with a quiet mind; through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. Amen.

LORD, we beseech Thee, grant Thy people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow Thee the only GOD; through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. Amen.

EVENING.

Remember at even-tide, that your soul may that night be required of you.

Therefore, do not dare to lie down and sleep, until you have taken account of your life, and passed sentence upon yourself as a sinner against Heaven and before Christ. So if He should call you before the dawn of the next day, His sentence will be milder from your having already declared its justice.

Ask yourself, then, these questions, trying to feel as if you were at the Judgment Seat, and GOD *and his Angels were before you:*

1. Did I give my first thoughts to GOD this morning?

2. Have I said my usual prayers, public or private, carefully, as speaking to GOD?

3. Have I tried at all times to think, speak, and act as in the presence of GOD?

4. Have I been obedient and respectful to all whom GOD has set over me (my parents, teachers, the clergy, &c.)?

5. Have I been angry without cause? rude, unkind, proud, conceited, dis contented?

6. Have I given way to impure or shameful thoughts, words, or actions? been lazy, idle, or gluttonous?

7. Have I been untruthful or deceitful? thought of or spoken unkindly of any one's faults?

8. Have I done my work well?

9. Have I avoided all persons or places or things that might lead me into sin?

10. Have I praised and blessed GOD for all His love and mercy to me?

Having now made trial of your life, kneel and confess humbly to GOD, *saying,*

LORD, have mercy upon me,
Heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.

O Almighty FATHER, LORD of Heaven and Earth, I confess to Thee all the

sins that I have done this day, in thought, word, or act, through my most grievous fault: (*If there be any great sin, name it here.*) O pardon me, pity and absolve me from all my sins, and bring me safe to everlasting life.

Our Father, &c.

Blessed be Thy Holy Name, O LORD,
For the mercies of the past day.
Vouchsafe, we pray Thee,
To keep us this night without sin.
LORD, have mercy on us;
CHRIST, have mercy on us;
LORD, have mercy on us.

Then these prayers:

O GOD, who art without beginning and without end, the Maker and Governor of all things through CHRIST, who hast made the day for works of light, and the night to give rest to our weakness; do Thou now, most kind

and gracious LORD, receive this my evening thanksgiving. Thou that hast led me through the length of the day, and brought me to the beginning of the night, keep and preserve me by Thy CHRIST. Grant that I may pass this evening in peace, and this night without sin; and finally that I may attain everlasting life; through JESUS CHRIST Thy Son, by whom be glory, honor and adoration unto Thee in the HOLY SPIRIT, world without End. Amen.

O GOD, merciful and faithful, the aid of all that trust in Thee, keep safely under the shadow of Thy wings my beloved relations and friends, and all believers, even thy whole Church; that we may increase in Thy Holy Spirit more and more until we come to Thine everlasting kingdom. Amen.

Or these two prayers:

O LORD, the Keeper of Israel, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, be

pleased, in Thy mercy, to watch over me and mine this night, and make us ever mindful of the time when we shall lie down in the dust. Preserve us while waking, and defend us while sleeping, that our souls may constantly watch with CHRIST, and rest in His peace forever. Amen.

Visit, I beseech Thee, O Lord, this habitation and drive far from it all snares of the enemy. Let Thy holy angels dwell within it, and preserve us in peace; and let Thy blessing be upon us evermore; through our LORD JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

Conclude thus:

GOD the Father, GOD the Son, GOD the Holy Ghost, be with me and mine now and in the hour of death.

LAST THOUGHTS IN CLOSING THE EYES TO SLEEP.

In the name of our LORD JESUS

CHRIST, who was crucified upon His cross, and laid into His grave for me, I lay me down to sleep. He bless me, keep me, and save me, raise me up again and bring me to life everlasting.

Directions for Friday.

THE Lord of Glory was crucified on Friday. The Church therefore bids us keep that day holy in remembrance of His Death. All the Fridays in the year are days of abstinence.

The rules for Friday are : to fast, to think of CHRIST on the cross, to grieve for your sins which helped to nail Him there, and to pray Him to save you.

Eat no more than you need for health and to get through your work. Do not the things which you like to do. Try and find out ways to deny yourself. If the devil would draw you off from these acts, saying that there is no use in

them, give no heed to his voice. Think of your Saviour, His bleeding brows, His feet and hands stabbed through with the spikes, His body racked, His bones out of joint. This thought will drive the devil from your heart and strengthen you to punish yourself for your sins.

Say at morning, noon, and evening:

O Saviour of the world, who by Thy Cross and precious Blood hast redeemed me, save me and help me, I humbly beseech Thee, O LORD.

In the evening, or at any hour of the day when you are alone, and have time, pray thus:

LORD JESUS, remember now the hour in which Thou didst once commend Thy blessed spirit into the hands of Thy Heavenly Father; when with a torn body and broken heart Thou didst show forth Thy mercy in dying for us.

I beseech Thee, O Thou brightness and image of GOD, so to aid me by Thy most precious death, that being dead unto the world, I may live only unto Thee; and at the hour of my departing from this mortal life, I may commend my soul into Thy hands, and that Thou mayest receive me into immortal life, there to reign with Thee forever and ever. Amen.

ADDITIONAL.

Daily Rule of Life.

Remember that you have to die, and that if you do not die well, you cannot try again; all will be lost. Your chief aim then should be to learn TO DIE WELL; *and you can only do this by learning to* LIVE WELL. *The following rule of life will help you to learn this necessary lesson. You should act up to it as far as you can, trying a part only first, and*

then more as you feel yourself able; but never be content until you are daily carrying out, at least in some degree, the whole of it. You will not find it easy at first, and will often forget it; but the more you try, the more you will, with God's help, be able to do.

1. BE careful to say all your prayers as speaking to Almighty God; and read daily a small portion of the Holy Scripture.

2. Examine yourself carefully every evening (p. 8).

3. Try to spend *each* day as you would wish at your death to have spent *every* day, and as if it were your last.

4. Keep a constant watch on your heart, and when tempted to sin, turn at once to pray.

5. Always speak, think, and act, as in the presence of God.

6. On hearing a clock strike, think that your death is so much nearer, and

lift up your heart to God in a short prayer.

7. Never be idle, or do anything useless merely to pass time away; you can never give too much time to the service of God.

8. Try to do all your duty heartily, and because it is God's will; carefully performing *at their proper times* those duties which seem to be most tiresome.

9. Set apart a day once a month for thought about death and for *special* preparation for it.

10. In all your words and actions set before yourself the glory of God as your only motive.

Trying to keep these rules will be a very great help to you. The more perfect you become in them, the easier you will find it to check yourself in sudden temptations. You will live always as it were in God's presence here, and so fit yourself to live with Him forever in Heaven.

Commemorations of the Week Days.

(*According to the Acts of Creation and Redemption.*)

On Sunday.—Remember that GOD made the light; CHRIST rose from the dead; the HOLY SPIRIT came down in the shape of fiery tongues on the Apostles.

On Monday.—Remember the creation of the firmament.

On Tuesday.—Remember the dividing of land from water, and the making of the trees and herbs.

On Wednesday.—Remember that GOD made the sun, moon, and stars; our LORD was also sold by Judas Iscariot for thirty pieces of silver.

On Thursday.—GOD made the fish of the sea, and the fowl of the air; our LORD instituted the blessed sacrament of His body and blood; on this day of the week He also ascended into heaven.

On Friday.—Man was created, pure

and holy; and man the sinner was saved by the death of our LORD. All Fridays in the year are days of abstinence.

On Saturday.—GOD rested from the work of creation; and Christ rested after the work of redemption, in the peaceful grave in the garden.

The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy.

(*Which to do them for any one, in faith, is to do them unto* CHRIST.)

1. To feed the hungry. 2. To give drink to the thirsty. 3. To clothe the naked. 4. To take in the stranger. 5. To visit the sick. 6. To visit the captive in prison. 7. To bury the dead.

(*See St. Matt.* xxv. 40.)

The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy.

1. To instruct the ignorant. 2. To correct offenders. 3. To counsel the

doubtful. 4. To comfort the afflicted. 5. To suffer injuries with patience. 6. To forgive offences and wrongs. 7. To pray for others.

The Seven Deadly Sins.

1. Pride. 2. Covetousness. 3. Luxury. 4. Envy. 5. Gluttony. 6. Anger. 7. Sloth.

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost.

1. Wisdom. 2. Understanding. 3. Counsel. 4. Ghostly strength. 5. Knowledge. 6. True Godliness. 7. Holy fear.

Three Notable Duties.

1. Prayer. 2. Fasting. 3. Almsgiving.

Four Last Things that can Befall Any One.

1. Death. 2. The Judgment. 3. Heaven, or 4. Hell.

The Lord's Day.

"Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy."—*Fourth Commandment.*

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more as ye see the Day approaching."—*Hebrews*, x. 25.

How to Keep the Lord's Day Holy.

ALMIGHTY GOD has bidden us, in the Fourth Commandment, keep one day in the week holy to Him.

It used to be the Seventh Day, or Saturday.

But the Church of Christ, by His permission, has changed this use, and bids us keep the First Day, or Sunday, instead.

She made this change, because the LORD rose from the dead on the first day of the week. It is called the LORD'S DAY, to put us in mind of His Resurrection.

Not to keep the LORD'S Day holy, is an awful sin: it is as bad as to worship idols, or to take His Name in vain. That day is holy to Him throughout; if we do not keep it so, we are destroying our own souls.

The LORD'S Day is not a fast, like Friday. It is a feast. Therefore put away sadness, and lift up your hearts; rejoice in the Lord; and again I say, rejoice. Take all the harmless pleasure you can. Sing merry hymns of joy. Be light of heart within yourself, and cheerful in your behavior to all. Feel as if the sun should always be bright on the LORD'S Day; as if all the birds should sing louder; as if the world were given up to praise Him, to make merry and be joyful.

Only remember that your joy be a holy one. *Rejoice in the Lord:* not in sin, vanity, or folly.

General Rules.

To be kept most sacredly as long as you live.

1. Never work at your trade or business on the LORD'S Day.

2. Never miss going to Church, at

least once. Let nothing hinder you but violent sickness, sudden death of friends, or the like great cause.

3. Read your Bible, your Prayer Book, and such other books as may help you to grow in holiness.

4. Give GOD thanks, again and again, for His mercies.

5. Do some good work, such as visiting any sick friend, or relieving some distress, or the like. Such acts of mercy befit this holy day, and bring great reward.

Morning Prayer.

Say your prayers as usual, and then add this :

Into the hands of Thy blessed care and unspeakable mercy, O LORD, I commend this day my soul and my body, my thoughts, words, and deeds, all that I have, and all that I am; praying

Thee to be with me now and forever, and so to direct, sanctify, and govern me in the ways of Thy laws, and in the works of Thy commandments, that through Thy most mighty protection I may be preserved in body and soul, unto the day of Thy glorious appearing, who art one with the FATHER and the HOLY GHOST, over all GOD blessed for evermore. Amen.

HOW TO CONDUCT YOURSELF IN CHURCH.

Always go to Church once, and, if possible, twice. Do not go away to other places of worship through curiosity, or to hear preaching, or to oblige friends who ask you. Keep to the Church alone. There you hear the true Word of GOD, and there are they who are truly His priests.

When you enter Church, say to yourself:

O LORD, how awful is this place.

This is no other than the house of GOD, and this is the gate of Heaven.

When you come to your seat, kneel humbly on your knees and say to yourself:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

O LORD, open Thou my lips and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. Keep me from all vain, wandering, and idle thoughts. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

The Service.

ATTEND with great care to the holy service. It is the chief thing for which we come to Church. No one gains much by the sermon, who is cold and careless in the service. So, too, after joining with all the heart in the service, one is more fit to hear GOD'S word

preached, and to receive it to the good of his soul.

Be not lazy and slothful; kneel to pray; stand up to praise; sit down to hear the lessons and the sermon. Shame on those who loll on their seats, or sit at their ease, when they ought to be kneeling or standing up. The body and the soul always work together. Your soul cannot pray and confess its sins, while the body is taking its comfort.

Pray with all your heart. Ask GOD secretly for all that you have need of. Pour out your soul to Him. Tell him every want, every fear, every care. Do this with the thought in your mind that prayers made in Church avail more than prayers made at home. If you have any great wish, any great resolution, mention it to GOD first in Church. His House is the *House of Prayer* for all people, and for all their needs.

The Sermon.

REMEMBER the text.

Try and catch some short sentence some brief remark, to take home, and lay up in your mind. Ask GOD to bless the word to your good. Remember that the more sermons you hear, the greater is your danger if you are not made better by them.

Never listen to a sermon in the hope of being amused. Remember that he who speaks is the minister of Divine things, and that he bears a message to you from the LORD of Hosts. Therefore, listen with respect and with fear.

Before leaving Church, say:

Pardon, O LORD, my wandering thoughts, and overlook, I pray Thee, my short-comings: and when I quit Thy house, may I not quit Thy presence, but may I be ever near to Thee

and Thou to me; through JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

Then go slowly out of Church, as one who cometh from the presence of GOD, *and He will look with favor upon you, and His blessing will rest on your head.*

The Holy Communion.

"The Cup of Blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the Blood of Christ?

"The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the Body of Christ?"—1 *Cor.* x. 16.

"Whoso eateth My Flesh and drinketh My Blood, hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."—*St. John*, vi. 54.

BY

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Directions for the Holy Communion.

THE Holy Communion is the greatest blessing of the Christian's life on earth. To receive it is also the first and highest duty of all the children of GOD.

No care can be too great in making ready for this holy feast. It rests with us whether it shall be a savor of life unto life, or one of death unto death. For he that eateth and drinketh worthily, dwelleth in CHRIST; and Christ will raise him up at the Last Day unto life eternal. But he that partaketh unworthily receiveth condemnation, because he hath not discerned the Body and Blood of the Lord.

Prepare for the Holy Communion with the same love and fear with which you would make ready to appear face to

face before your GOD. Begin this work at the time when notice is given in the Church. Let it be in your thoughts daily, to what a high and holy mystery you are called. Bethink you that if you come expecting to receive little, you will get little; if much you will get much.

Some people think that if they go to the LORD'S Table two or three times a year, it is enough. This is all a mistake. We cannot go too often, if rightly prepared. The Church advises all to go once a month. This is the very least with which you ought to feel content.

But never fail to go on Christmas, Easter, and Whitsunday; and as often besides as possible.

It is best to have some little book to guide you in preparing. "Steps to the Altar," is one of the best. But if you have not time to go through a long form, you will find here following a mode by which you may prepare your-

self. It is short. Read it once or twice, so as to understand it; and then always use it before coming to Communion.

I. Instruction on the Holy Communion.

WHAT IT IS.

THE Altar is the most sacred thing in the Church. It is the place of Sacrifice and of Sacramental Communion. There we worship GOD with the highest kind of worship that can be rendered to Him; and there we are fed with the true Bread of life.

At the Altar is offered the Spiritual Sacrifice of the Church, representing before Almighty GOD, our Heavenly Father, the Sacrifice of JESUS CHRIST once offered for sin, and now perpetually pleaded for sinners, in the Presence of GOD in Heaven and on Earth. That Act is the great Act of Worship in

which we unite with Angels and Archangels and all the Company of Heaven, and are one with the Spirits of the Just made perfect and the whole Church here and in the other world. No other worship that we can do equals that; and it is the duty of every Christian to join in it whenever he can.

Then also CHRIST draws near to His faithful people, and gives them His Body and Blood to be the food of their souls, and to keep their bodies also unto a glorious resurrection.

He instituted this Holy Sacrament in the night in which He was betrayed. Then did He take bread, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is My Body." Then He took wine, and gave it to them in like manner, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is My Blood." He had before told them, "Whosoever eateth My Flesh, and drinketh My Blood hath everlasting

life; and I will raise him up at the Last Day."

So now, when you receive bread and wine in this blessed sacrament, believe and be sure that you receive also and at the same time the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.

III. Benefits of the Holy Communion.

1. We are thereby made sure of God's favor and love to us, and that all our sins are forgiven. The Holy Communion is the means by which God forgives us, and a sure sign that He has done so.
2. We are thereby kept His true children. We were *made* His children in Baptism: we remain so by being faithful communicants.
3. We know thereby that we shall go to Heaven after we die. For in Heaven we shall be always with Christ. But in the Holy Communion we draw near to Christ, and are with Him

so that we have in it a foretaste of Heaven, and a pledge that we shall some day dwell there together.

4. Our souls are fed thereby with that Bread which keeps them in health and strength, and without which they must starve and die. For the Body and Blood of Christ are the Food of the soul.

Think of these things, and see what great cause you have to love your Lord, and to go with joy to His table. If you stay away, you miss all these good things, and you show yourself to be heartless and unkind in not returning His love toward you.

Consider also :

1st. That the Holy Communion is to our souls what meat and drink are to our bodies. If one should leave off eating, how soon would he starve to death ! And if one who needed two or three good meals a day to keep up his strength

should try to do with only one, how soon would he get weak and good for nothing! So it is with your soul. The Body and Blood of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament are its food. Will you starve your soul by never going to that Sacrament? Will you keep it poor and weakly by only going once or twice a year?

2d. That the Holy Communion is for ALL, the sinners as well as the righteous. For Christ came to call, not the righteous, but sinners to repentance. That you are a sinner, is the more reason why you should come, if only you repent of your sins, and try to break them off: for in that Sacrament you have the blessed knowledge that, if penitent, your sins are forgiven.

III. How to Receive the Sacrament Worthily.

FOUR things are needful.

1. To repent you truly for your sins past.
2. To have a lively and steadfast faith in CHRIST, your Saviour.
3. To be resolved to amend your life.
4. To be in perfect Charity with all men.

THE WAY TO PREPARE YOURSELF.

To know whether you have those four things needful, you must first examine yourself by the rule of GOD'S commandments.

I. Self-Examination.

Before you begin, think to yourself as follows:

1. If a sick man does not know his disease, how can he take care of his health? I must know my old sins, in order to be watchful and sin no more.

2. If a man does not know his sins, how can he ask GOD'S pardon? Confess thy sins, it is said, and He will forgive. But how can I confess what I do not know? Shall I hear of my sins for the first time at the Day of Judgment? GOD forbid! I will know them now, I will lay them open to Him. I will conceal nothing. GOD will cover what I confess; but at the Last Day, He will lay open what I hide.

Then begin and question yourself as follows, and think that you stand before GOD, *and that He sees whether you answer truly:*

1. How have I sinned since my last communion?

2. Have I desired any thing more than GOD?

3. Have I taken GOD'S name in vain?

4. Have I said my prayers every morning and evening?

5. Have I kept the LORD'S Day holy?

6. Have I neglected to go to church?

7. Have I been kind to my parents, brothers, sisters, &c.?

8. Have I been lowly and reverent to all my betters?

9. Have I kept my body pure and in chastity?

10. Have I taken any thing that was not my own?

11. Have I kept my tongue from lies and slandering?

12. Have I lost my temper, or been fretful or peevish?

13. Have I worked at my lawful business steadily?

14. Am I in peace and charity with all?

15. Has my life been that which becomes one who is a member of CHRIST, a child of GOD, and an inheritor of the kingdom of Heaven?

When you have thus examined yourself, kneel down and say:

O most gracious GOD, Father of Mercies, I confess unto Thee, that I have

sinned and done wickedly, before Heaven and in Thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy child. I have erred and strayed from Thy ways, and thus and thus (*here mention your sins*) have I done. Forgive me my sins, O LORD; forgive me the sins of my youth, and the sins of mine age, the sins of my soul, and the sins of my body, my secret and whispering sins, my open and crying sins, the sins that I have done to please myself, and the sins that I have done to please others. Forgive me my wanton and idle sins; forgive me my serious sins; forgive me those sins which I know, and those which I know not; the sins which I so long have tried to hide from others, that now I have even hid them from my own memory. O give me a broken and contrite heart, and wash me in the precious Blood of my Redeemer, for His sake, who gave himself for me, the greatest of sinners. Amen.

Most Holy and Eternal GOD, I am not worthy to be called Thy servant, much less am I worthy to be Thy child. LORD, pardon all my sins for the sake of the merciful Saviour; deliver me from the chains wherewith they have bound me; reserve not those my sins to be punished in the day of Thy wrath and everlasting damnation; but wash them away and blot them out of Thy remembrance and purify my soul with the tears of my repentance and the Blood of the Cross; that for what is past Thy wrath may not burn against me, and for the time to come I may no more provoke Thee to anger. O my Father, be merciful to me for the love and compassion of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

II. Profession of Faith.

THE second part of preparation for Holy Communion is to have a lively and steadfast faith in JESUS CHRIST

and His holy religion. Now all religion is summed up in the Creed. Therefore, stand up and say the Nicene Creed:

I believe in One GOD, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one LORD JESUS CHRIST, the Only Begotten Son of GOD; Begotten of His Father, before all worlds; GOD of GOD, Light of Light, Very GOD of Very GOD, Begotten, not made; Being of one Substance with the Father; By Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, AND WAS INCARNATE BY THE HOLY GHOST OF THE VIRGIN MARY, AND WAS MADE MAN; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate: He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father

And He shall come again with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the LORD and Giver of life; Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who, with the Father and the Son together, is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the prophets. And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Then add this Act of faith:

All this, the one, only, and true faith, I do from my heart profess and believe. Help Thou, O LORD, mine unbelief; and grant me grace to continue in this faith unto my life's end, and to depart out of this world with this holy confession on my lips. Amen.

III. Amendment of Life.

Make this short act with your whole soul.

LORD, I see that my life has not been what it ought; and I do bewail my misdeeds. LORD, I know that I can do all things through Thee and in Thy strength. I do therefore purpose and resolve from this day forth to lead a better life, and to live unto Thee. Help me to keep this promise; and save me from my spiritual enemy, and from everlasting death. Amen.

Then add this:

I desire, O Gracious LORD, from this moment to renounce everything that may displease Thee, and resolve, through the grace of Thy Holy Sacrament, to resist all temptations, and to become wholly Thine: for in my own strength I can do nothing; but on Thee I depend entirely, O my Saviour

and best Friend. For Thy Name's sake, O Lord, for Thy love's sake, for Thy promise's sake, teach me whatever Thou wouldst have me to do, and then help me to do it. Teach me first what to resolve upon, and then enable me to perform my resolutions, that I may walk with Thee in the ways of holiness here, and rest with Thee in happiness hereafter. Amen.

IV. Charity with Your Neighbor.

REMEMBER what the LORD JESUS hath said: If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee, go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Again it is written: "Let not the sun go down upon thy wrath."

Therefore, if any one has done you wrong, forgive him with all your heart.

If you have wronged any one, go and restore, confessing that you have sinned against him, and asking his pardon.

If you have had hot words, or been angry with any one, dare not come near the altar till you have done all in your power to make it up.

☞ If, in preparing for this Blessed Sacrament, you are in any doubt or trouble of mind about your sins, go at once to your Pastor, and open all your grief. He is GOD'S Priest, and loves your soul, and watches for it as one who must give account, and GOD has given him power and commandment to declare unto you, if you be truly penitent, the Absolution and Remission of all your sins. Do not be afraid; he has seen many like you; and he will never repeat what you say to him.

DEVOTIONS FOR THE MORNING OF HOLY COMMUNION.

If you have time, add to your prayers on the morning of the day on which you

are to make your Communion, this following Office:

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

This is the day that the LORD hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it.

LORD, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof.

O LORD, open Thou my lips:

And my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

PSALM LXXXIV.

O HOW amiable are Thy dwellings, Thou Lord of hosts.

My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: even Thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in Thy

house: they will be alway praising Thee.

Blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee: in whose heart are Thy ways.

Who going through the vale of misery use it for a well: and the pools are filled with water.

They will go from strength to strength: and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of them in Sion.

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold, O God our defender: and look upon the face of Thine Anointed.

For one day in Thy courts is better than a thousand.

I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

For the Lord God is a light and defence: the Lord will give grace and worship, and no good thing shall He withhold from them that live a godly life.

O Lord God of hosts: blessed is the man that putteth his trust in Thee.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Or, in penitential seasons, as Advent and Lent:

Psalm, cxxx. *De profundis.*

1. OUT of the deep have I called unto Thee, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice.

2. O let Thine ears consider well the voice of my complaint.

3. If Thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who may abide it?

4. For there is mercy with Thee; therefore shalt Thou be feared.

5. I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for Him; in His word is my trust.

6. My soul fleeth unto the Lord before the morning watch; I say before the morning watch.

7. O Israel, trust in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption.

8. And He shall redeem Israel from all his sins.

THE LESSON.

St. John, vi. 53–58.

JESUS said unto them, Verily, verily I say unto you, Except ye eat the Flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His Blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth My Flesh and drinketh My Blood hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My Flesh is meat indeed, and My Blood is drink indeed. He that eateth My Flesh and drinketh My Blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent Me, and I live by the Father; so he that eateth Me, even he shall live

by Me. This is that Bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna and are dead: he that eateth of this Bread shall live for ever.

LORD have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.
Our Father, etc.

Almighty and everlasting GOD, behold I approach the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ; I come sick to the Physician of life, unclean to the Fountain of mercy, blind to the light of eternal brightness, poor and needy to the Lord of all things; I pray Thee, therefore, to wash my defilements, to enlighten my blindness, to enrich my poverty, to clothe my nakedness; that I may receive the true Bread of Angels, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, with a humble, lowly and contrite heart, with a lively faith in Thy mercy, and a

pure desire to do Thy will. Grant this, O GOD, I beseech Thee, for the sake of the same, Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

O most loving FATHER, grant unto me that as I desire here to receive Thy blessed Son in this most Holy Sacrament, so I may hereafter behold Him face to face, where with Thee, O Father, and the Holy Ghost, He liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

LORD and Master, God Almighty, Who dwellest on high and yet humblest Thyself to behold the things that are on earth, Who hast compassion upon all men and hatest nothing that Thou hast made, Whose mercies and loving kindness are day by day renewed, look, I beseech Thee, graciously upon Thy servant, pity me in Thy great tenderness and love, and have regard to my prayer and supplication which I make before Thee.

Not, LORD, in my own righteousness, but trusting in Thy manifold and great mercies, do I now approach Thine Altar, that I may offer to Thee, by the Ministry of Thy Priest and in company with the faithful here assembled, the Memorial of the Cross and Passion of Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Grant me, blessed LORD, not only to receive Thy Sacrament in the outward forms of bread and wine, but in the grace and power thereof: not bread and wine alone, but the Body and Blood of Jesus, to the pardon of my sins, and all other benefits of His Passion. Amen.

O blessed SAVIOUR, I, a poor unworthy sinner, do long to come to Thy table; yet for my many and grievous sins, I even tremble and fear to approach it. I come therefore to Thee, the Fountain of mercy, hoping that Thou wilt wash me; I come to Thee, the Good Samaritan, hoping Thou wilt

heal my wounds. I open my grief to Thee, I look upon my sins, many and very great, and thereupon tremble; yet seeing Thy mercy, great and plentiful, I am therewith again refreshed. Remember how many pains and sorrows Thou didst bear, to put away my sins. I pray Thee, blessed SAVIOUR, by them to purge and purify me; that I may remain a living member of Thy Body, the Church, and may also worthily receive this Sacrament, that so, with all Thy faithful people, I may give Thee praise everlastingly. Amen.

Anima Christi.

SOUL of CHRIST, sanctify me: Body of CHRIST, save me: Blood of CHRIST, refresh me: Water from the side of CHRIST, wash me: Passion of CHRIST, strengthen me: O good JESUS! hear me: Within Thy wounds hide me:

Suffer me not to be separated from Thee: From the malicious enemy defend me: In the hour of my death, call me: And bid me come to Thee, that with Thy saints I may praise Thee, for ever and ever. Amen.

NOTE. *If you have not time to say these prayers and devotions before, you may use them after you are come into the Church when you expect to receive your Communion.*

A THANKSGIVING AFTER RECEIVING THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Praise the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me praise His holy Name.

Psalm, cl. *Laudate Dominum.*

O PRAISE GOD in His Holiness: praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Praise Him in His noble acts: praise

Him according to His excellent greatness.

Praise Him in the sound of the trumpet: praise Him upon the lute and harp.

Praise Him in the cymbals and dances: praise Him upon the strings and pipe.

Praise Him upon the well-tuned cymbals: praise Him upon the loud cymbals.

Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord.

Glory be to the Father, &c.

Praise the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me praise His holy Name.

Our Father, Which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy Will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For

Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

I give thanks to Thee, my SAVIOUR, that it hath pleased Thee to fill my soul with gladness, and to feed me with the heavenly food of Thy most sacred Body and Blood; and humbly I pray that from henceforth I may walk in all good works, and that being now made whole, I may sin no more, but ever serve Thee in holiness and pureness of living until I come unto Thine everlasting kingdom.

Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the Throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever. Amen. Amen.

Glory be to Thee, O LORD, glory to Thee; glory to Thee, and glory to Thine all-holy Name, for Thy great goodness, and Thy pity towards sinners, and unworthy men, and towards me, of all sinners by far the most unworthy. Yea, O LORD, for this, and

for the rest, glory to Thee, and praise and blessing, and thanksgiving with the voices and concert of voices, of angels and of men, of all Thy Saints in heaven, and of all Thy creatures in heaven or earth, and of me beneath their feet, unworthy and wretched sinner, now, in this day and hour, and every day till my last breath, and till the end of the world, and forever and ever. Amen.

The Church.

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE.

"If he neglect to hear the CHURCH, let him be to thee as a heathen man and a publican."—*St. Matthew*, xviii. 17.

"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the SON OF GOD, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of CHRIST."—*Ephesians*, iv. 13.

The Church of Christ.

THE Church of Christ, which we call in our Creeds the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, is a Society having for its end to make men know, love, and serve GOD, and to fit them in this way to dwell with Him after this life is over.

It is called CHRIST'S Church because He founded it when He was on this earth. He is its Head and King. Next to Him, He gave the Holy Apostles to rule it. When the Apostles were all dead, the Bishops were made rulers of the Church in their stead. The Bishops have ever since been the heads of the Church under CHRIST, who is its Head in Heaven. They have the office of the Apostles, and we honor and obey them as such.

It is called the HOLY Church because GOD has put in it all the means which men need to make them holy; and because all who are in the Church are called to lead holy lives, and moved thereto by the HOLY GHOST.

It is called the CATHOLIC Church because it is not for one time or place, but for all. CHRIST meant that it should spread through all lands, and hold in one all men and tribes of the earth.

It is called the APOSTOLIC Church, because its heads, the Bishops, are the same in office as the Apostles, and have under them Priests and Deacons, which orders have always, since the time of the Apostles, been found in the Church. Also because it has the old Creeds, which tell what the Apostles taught; and the two Sacraments, Baptism, and the Supper of the LORD, the same which the Apostles administered to the people.

Holy Baptism the Door of the Church.

To get into a house or a room, you must have a door. It is so with the Church. There is a way by which we get into it. That way, or door, is Baptism.

Every one who has been baptized, is in the Church of CHRIST whether he thinks so or not. Any one who is not baptized, is out of the Church and the same as a heathen.

In your baptism you were made a member of CHRIST (or a Christian, which is the same thing), and taken into the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Infants ought to be baptized very soon after they are born. We cannot be too quick to place them in CHRIST'S blessed Church, and in the arms of His Love.

The Life of the Soul—When it begins.

THE soul, like the body, has a life.

The life of the body is one which, so to speak, we can see.

But the life of the soul is hid with CHRIST in GOD.

This hidden life begins in a mystery; that is to say, in Holy Baptism. You were thereby made, as you have been taught since you first began to learn, "a member of CHRIST, the child of GOD and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven."

But it does not follow because you have been baptized, that you are sure to be saved.

This the words show. You were made a "member of CHRIST"; that is, joined to Him as a branch to a tree. But He says in His gospel, "If any man *abide not in Me*, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered, and cast into the fire and burned." (Read, with fear

and trembling, St. John 15th chapter, 1st verse to the 6th.) Thus you see that if you do not abide in CHRIST, it will go very hard with you, and your doom will be full of woe.

Again, you were made the "Child of GOD." If you do not grow up a *good* child, He will cast you out from His family in Heaven. There are bad children as well as good. See that you be not one of them, and thus lose your claim to your Father's love and care.

Lastly, you were made an *inheritor* of the Kingdom of Heaven. Now an inheritor, that is to say, an *heir*, is one who is to get something by-and-by; he has it not yet, he is to have it. This is just your state. You are an *heir* of glory and life eternal; but you have not got them yet. Nor will you ever get them, unless you keep and do all that your sponsors, who brought you to baptism, promised in your name.

What You have to Do.

YOUR soul has been *made* alive. But it must now be *kept* alive. This is to be done by the grace of GOD.

But He will not give it to you, unless you do these three things :

1st. Repent of all your sins.

2d. Believe in Him.

3d. Keep His commandments.

Now, dear Christian soul, your salvation hangs on your doing these three things as well as you can : All your life you must strive to serve God. You must ask His help and seek His grace ; and you must pray Him to forgive you for not doing more, and for doing so badly the little which you can do.

Helps to the Life of Holiness.

GOD has put many such within your reach. For He knows that your path

through life is as a long and hard journey, and He has seen fit to smooth the road and to place wells of cool water beside it, and to give guides to lead you on the way, lest you turn from the track and be lost.

The chief helps and aids to those who strive to live as CHRIST would have them, are these :

1. The Word of God read and preached.
2. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
3. The counsel and advice of the Clergy.
4. The Christian Year of Feasts and Fasts.

I have a few words to say on each of these ; but most about the last.

I. FIRST HELP.—THE WORD OF GOD READ AND PREACHED.

At home keep your Bible close at hand. Read it often ; a few verses at

a time. Think of what you have read. Pray that you may be made better by it. Get many verses of the Bible by heart. Lay up as much of it as you can in your mind. It is the Word of that God with whom you hope to dwell in a better world, and in knowing whom stands your eternal life.

Treat the Bible with great care. Never let any other book lie on top of it. Do not throw it down when you stop reading. Take it up gravely and lay it down in the like way. Have a place set apart for it. It is the Book of God.

If you are at a loss to know what any part means, go to your minister and ask. It is part of his duty to preach the Word and explain it. He will make all clear. Give good heed to all that he tells you of the sense of the Scriptures, as well in private as in his sermons. Thus you will have much help in living unto the Lord.

II. SECOND HELP.—THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

I have no more to say than what has been said in that part of this Manual which shows you how to prepare for it.

III. THIRD HELP.—THE COUNSEL AND ADVICE OF THE CLERGY.

Now here is a help which the most part think very little of. But too much cannot be said of your need of it.

You ought to know your minister as well as if he were one of your own household. You ought to feel as if you could go to him at any time and be sure to find in him a friend. He ought to know your heart and your life, your ways and your thoughts, your joys and your griefs.

None should be a stranger to his pastor. For the pastor is set to watch for the souls of his flock. He must give account of them at the Last Day. How

can he do this, if he does not know them as himself ?

It was never meant by Christ that His people should go on their way alone. His priests are pastors to them. The sheep should know their voice, and should follow them. Each pastor ought to be able to say in truth : "I know my sheep, and am known of mine."

Hear what St. Paul saith to his people : "Therefore, my brethren, dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and my crown, so stand fast in the LORD, my dearly beloved." See with what a kind heart, and with what affection he speaks to them. Mark how he calls them his joy and crown. So are ye also to us, dear Christian souls. Ye to whom we preach, and for whom, night and day, we pray to the Great Shepherd of the flock, ye are also our joy and crown if ye stand fast in the faith, and abide in the knowledge and fear of the LORD.

If you will follow this counsel in coming to your clergy, knowing them, and often speaking with them, you will find the way to Heaven made more sure and safe for your feet. While you do well, they will cheer you on to do even better, and to aim at higher acts of faith and zeal. Should you be lukewarm they will, by their words, kindle again your faith. Should you be in danger, they will warn you and bring you back. If you fall and sink into the slough of sin, they will go after you, and strive to draw you back to life and GOD. If you are ill, they will come to you as friends, and soothe you with a well-known voice, and feed you with the bread of life. It GOD should take you away, those whom you love are not left in this world without a friend; the minister of CHRIST will watch for them also, and save them from want.

See, then, dear people, what we can do, if you will come to us without fear,

and tell us your state and your wants. See how we can help you, and how you, by your walk of faith, can cheer us. So let us go hand-in-hand toward the house of our Father and our GOD.

IV. FOURTH HELP.—THE CHRISTIAN YEAR.

The Church Year, or Christian Year, begins with the first Sunday in Advent, and ends with the last of the Sundays after Trinity.

It has six great times or seasons, to wit:

Advent.
Christmas tide.
Lent.
Easter tide.
Whitsuntide.
Trinity season.

The Christian Year is made up of Feasts, Fasts and Common Days.

Feast Days.

A FEAST day is one in which we are to think of the love of GOD, His goodness, His mercy, in which we are to rejoice and give thanks. All Sundays in the year are Feast days.

There are also six High Feast days in the year, to wit: Christmas Day, Epiphany, Easter, Ascension Day, Whitsunday and Trinity Sunday. These days are bright, and good, and glorious—the joy of all the faithful, and the crown of the months and weeks.

Among the Feasts are some which bear the names of saints, martyrs, apostles, evangelists and angels. The Church keeps these days for two reasons:

1st. That she may show what she means by the Communion of the Saints.

2d. Because the life of a saint of GOD is the most beautiful and lovely thing to be seen on the earth; and that in which the power of the Almighty is

most plainly set forth. It is not only the most beautiful thing, but also the highest and the best. The saints shall never fail. All else in the earth shall pass away to darkness, and be seen no more. The pride, the pomp, the vanity, the strength of man shall be brought low and cease. But the saints shall possess the kingdom of the LORD, and shine as the stars forever and ever.

For this cause the Church keeps their days, to show you how good was their life, how blessed their end here, and how rich their reward in the world to come: to lead you to love such a life, and wish to be what they were. For such a wish will bring you grace from GOD to fulfill it. "Blessed are they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."

Fast Days.

A FAST Day is one on which we are to think of our sins, and of the wrath of Almighty GOD against them ; of the woes that are sure to come on the wicked ; of the dread way in which pardon was bought for man after he fell ; of the Blood of JESUS, His Cross and His pains and tears. All Fridays in the year are days of fasting.

There are two days to be set apart and kept sacred for very deep and heavy grief for sin ; these are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Let only some very great cause keep you from church on those days.

In the Prayer Book is a Table of the Feasts and Fasts through all the year.

I shall next give you some rules and forms for each one of the seasons and great days ; which use for CHRIST'S sake, who hath loved us and bought us

with His Blood. But generally, of the whole Christian year, as it has now been briefly shown to you, let me say, that to live in it and by it is the best way of serving the LORD. Keep these days. If you cannot leave off your work on all of them, never mind, so you hallow them at least in your heart. O, children of the Church! live in the Church, love her holy ways, walk in her paths of peace, look not beyond. You have nought to do with those who are without, but to treat them kindly, do good to them, and pray for them. In the Holy Catholic Church you have your portion; be content; give GOD thanks; be at rest. Live by the Bible and the Prayer Book. Begin each day with prayer; go forth to your work and to your labor until the evening; lie down with the Eye of JESUS looking upon you, and the Holy Angels watching around. Do good in your time. Be sober, industrious, true, honest,

kind. Fulfill your course. Lay hold on all the helps which the LORD puts within your reach to bring you to Heaven. So shall your walk be close with God; so shall you at length rest in Him with the Blessing of the Holy Church upon your grave; so shall you wake in the last great morning, to rise and go to your Father's House; to be brought close to that LORD, of whose body you are a member, and from whose side you will never be parted; to inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world.

The Christian Year

OF

FEASTS AND FASTS,

AND

HOLY SEASONS:

WITH OFFICES AND HYMNS FOR THE SAME.

"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known, by the Church, the manifold wisdom of God."—*Ephesians*, iii. 10.

Forms of Devotion for Certain Holy Days and Seasons.

ADVENT.

ADVENT means coming. It is a season meant to bring to your mind two comings of our LORD CHRIST; the first, His coming into this world "in great humility," when He was born of the Blessed Virgin to a life of care, and a cruel death. The second, His coming at the Last Day, "in glorious majesty to judge the world."

You must, then, use this season,

1st. To prepare to keep Christmas, the Birthday of CHRIST.

2d. To prepare for the time when you must stand before Him and be judged.

THOUGHTS FOR ADVENT.

"The Day of the Lord so cometh a
a thief in the night.

"At midnight there was a cry mad
Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go y
out to meet him."

If I am in any sin now which keep
me away from CHRIST and from th
thought of Him, how shall I bear t
meet Him then, in all His glory an
power?

If I cannot now rightly draw nea
to Him at His altar, where I do not se
Him, though He is of a truth there, ho
much less shall I be able to meet Hi
face to face before His judgmen
throne?

If I am not looking for His coming,
shall not be ready for it. He will com
when men think not. When he come
the Judgment begins.

PRACTICE.

1. *Bear any trouble, or do any har*

work, or take any pleasure, with little care, saying to yourself:

It is not long—Christ comes quickly.

2. *Think, speak, and act, remembering the Judgment Day.*

3. *Add this to your evening prayers:*

Blessed Jesus, prepare Thy way before Thee.

Lord have mercy on me, in that great and awful Day.

Lord, grant me to be found watching when Thou comest.

On Thursday night, or some other, kneel and say this that follows, while in thy heart thou seest the throne of Judgment set, and the books opened, and multitudes standing in the Valley of Decision, and the holy Angels looking on, and the Eye of God piercing thee through, and thyself naked and helpless before the Judge of all the Earth.

O Holy, Ever-Blessed Trinity, God of penitants,

And Saviour of sinners,
I have sinned before Thee, O LORD,
And thus and thus (*naming your chief sins*) have I done.
Alas! alas! woe is me!
How fearful is Thy judgment, O Lord!
When the thrones are set,
And Angels stand around,
And men are brought in,
The books opened,
The works tried which each hath done,
The hidden things made known;
Yea, those things which I did,
O, wretched one that I am,
Those things which I did as if none saw me
And Satan accusing,
And my conscience condemning,
And I without excuse,
And lost forever,
Yea, forever,
Forever and ever,
Unless Thou have mercy,

Mercy beyond all thought,
Mercy that I deserve not.
But Thou,
Thou art my hope,
My only hope.
O, Love of the Father, save me!
O, Blood of the Son, save me!
O, Pleadings of the Spirit, save me!
Snatch me even now, O Lord,
from my sins.
Save me, O Christ,
From the worm that dieth not,
From the fire that is not quenched,
From the darkness and the chains.
Lord, have mercy upon me;
Christ, have mercy upon me;
Lord, have mercy upon me.

PSALMS FOR ADVENT; FROM THE PSALTER.

1st, 7th, 11th, 37th, 96th, 97th.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR ADVENT.

Malachi, 3d and 4th chapters; St. Mat-

thew, 25th chapter; St. Peter, 3d chapter; Revelation, 20th chapter.

ADVENT HYMN.

Lo! He comes, in clouds descending,
Once on earth for sinners slain;
Thousand, thousand saints attending,
Swell the triumph of His train,
Hallelujah!
JESUS comes on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold Him,
Robed in dreadful majesty:
Those who set at nought and sold Him
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of His Passion,
Still His dazzling Body bears;
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshippers;
Still with rapture
Gaze they on those glorious scars.

See Redemption, long expected,
Now in solemn pomp appear;

All His saints, by men rejected,
Rise to meet Him in the air;
Hallelujah!
See the SON OF GOD appear!

Yea, Amen! let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne!
SAVIOUR, take Thy power and glory,
Claim the Kingdoms for Thine own!
O come quickly!
Hallelujah! Amen.

Feast of the Nativity, or Christmas Day.

THIS is the day on which CHRIST the Saviour was born. It is to be kept with joy and gladness. Do no work. Go to church. Receive the Blessed Sacrament, praising Him who came into the world to redeem you.

Be full of holy love to GOD and man. Do some work of Charity to any one whom you know to be in need of it. Rejoice unto the LORD all day long,

and give thanks to the FATHER, who sent his SON to be made man; to the SON, who was born of the Virgin Mary; to the HOLY GHOST, by whom He was conceived.

THOUGHTS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY.

The SON OF GOD became the Son of Man, that we might become the sons of GOD.

Am I like a child of GOD?

The SON of God, who made all things, who is Lord of Angels, and of all creation, humbled Himself to become man, and to be born in a manger.

Am I humble?

Am I content with poverty?

Do I love it for CHRIST'S sake?

The birth of CHRIST was the new birth of man. Old things have passed away. Behold all things are become new.

DEVOTIONS.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

This is the day which the LORD hath made :

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

JESUS, everlasting Son of God,
We praise Thy Holy Name ;
JESUS, born of a virgin, to save us,
We laud and bless Thee.
O praise the LORD of Heaven ; praise
Him in the height,
Praise Him all ye angels of His ; praise
Him all His host.

O joyful tidings of the Angel's mouth ! Behold, to us was born, this day, a Saviour, which is CHRIST the Lord. Amen. Alleluia !

O wonderful sign ! The King of Heaven and Earth is found, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. Even so. Amen.

HYMN.

No more sadness now, nor fasting,
Now we put our grief away ;
GOD came down, the Everlasting,
Taking human flesh to-day.

GOD came down on earth a stranger,
Working out His mighty plan;
GOD was cradled in a manger,
Very GOD and very man.

There were shepherds once abiding,
In the field to watch by night.
And they saw the clouds dividing;
And the sky above was bright.
And a glory shone around them,
On the grass as they were laid;
And a holy Angel found them,
And their hearts were sore afraid.

"Fear ye not," he said, "for cheerful
Are the tidings that I bring,
Unto you, so weak and fearful,
CHRIST is born, the LORD and KING.
As the Angel told the story
Of the SAVIOUR's lowly birth,
Sang they high in heaven, "Glory
To our GOD, and peace on earth.

Since Thy love for our salvation,
SAVIOUR, covered Thee with shame,
Let Thy Church, in every nation,
Sing the glory of Thy name.

Let Thy Holy Spirit make us
  Full of lowliness and love,
Like Thyself, until Thou take us
  To our FATHER'S House above.

Kneel down and say:

I adore, I praise and glorify Thee, and I give thanks unto Thee, O SON of the living GOD, most gracious JESUS; who for me did vouchsafe to be born a feeble Infant in a stable, and to be laid in a manger. Thou didst become poor and weak that Thou mightest make me rich.

Behold, I fall down in body and soul before Thee, and adore Thee, my LORD and King of Angels. Hail, Holy Child, GOD Most High, Most Gracious JESUS. Hail, Prince of Peace, Light of the nations, and long-desired SAVIOUR.

Grant us, O LORD, we beseech Thee, with devout affection to receive this first humble rising of the Sun of Right-

eousness, that we may follow Him through the whole painful course of His life, which like a giant He rejoiced to run, enlightening the world with Thy truth, and inflaming it with Thy love, till in the end we arrive at His eternal rest; through the same our LORD JESUS CHRIST, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the HOLY GHOST, one GOD, world without end. Amen.

Stand up and say:

Glory be to the Father, &c.

Glory be to GOD on high, and on earth peace, good-will towards man, Alleluia.

Feast of the Epiphany.

OR MANIFESTATION OF CHRIST TO THE GENTILES.

AT the first GOD was only the GOD of the Jews, but now in His Blessed SON He has made Himself the GOD of

the Gentiles also, even of us lost sinners. For, on this day, CHRIST showed Himself to the wise men who traveled from a far country by the guidance of a star until they came to the manger where He lay : when they offered gifts unto Him and worshiped.

Prayer.

O Blessed JESUS, who didst manifest Thyself to them that sought Thee, by the leading of a star, show Thy heavenly light to us, and give us grace to follow until we find Thee ; finding, to rejoice in Thee ; rejoicing to present to Thee ourselves, our souls and bodies, for Thy service. Amen.

Think also on this day of the glory of the Church. For CHRIST shall come as her LORD and KING to reign in her in power and great glory, and the earth shall be full of His majesty, and Satan shall be forever cast out. Pray for the

coming of that day of triumph and victory of the Holy Catholic Church; and say what follows:

The LORD is king, and hath put on glorious apparel: The Lord hath put on His apparel and girded Himself with strength.

May it please Thee, O LORD, Shortly to fulfill the number of Thine elect and to hasten Thy kingdom.

HYMNS FOR EPIPHANY SEASON.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us Thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our Infant REDEEMER is laid.

Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining,
Low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker, and Monarch, and Saviour of all.

Offer Him gifts then, in costly devotion,
Odors of Eden, and incense divine;

Gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
  Myrrh from the forest, and gold from the
    mine.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning
  Dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine
    aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
  Guide where our Infant REDEEMER is laid.

PSALM, CXXII.

The Church in Glory.

With joy shall I behold the day
That calls my willing soul away,
  To dwell among the blest:
For lo! my great Redeemer's power
Unfolds the everlasting door,
  And points me to His rest.

Even now, to my expecting eyes
The heaven-built towers of Salem rise;
  Their glory I survey;
I view her mansions that contain
The angel host, a beauteous train,
  And shine with cloudless day.

Thither, from earth's remotest end,
Lo! the redeemed of God ascend,
  Borne on immortal wing;

34A

There, crown'd with everlasting joy,
In ceaseless hymns their tongues employ,
  Before th' Almighty King.

The King a seat hath there prepared,
High on eternal base uprear'd,
  For His eternal Son:
His palaces with joy abound;
His saints, by Him with glory crown'd,
  Attend and share his throne.

Mother of cities! o'er thy head
Bright peace with healing wings outspread,
  For evermore shall dwell:
Let me, blest seat! my name behold
Among thy citizens enroll'd,
  And bid the world farewell.

Lent.

LENT is a period of about six weeks before Easter.

It is a time of the year set apart for us to repent of sin, and sorrow for it; to remember CHRIST'S sufferings and

death; and to change our life, and fast, and deny ourselves in all ways.

Lent begins on Ash-Wednesday, and ends on Easter-Even.

Be sure to go to church as often as you can in Lent; and be very careful in all your religious duties.

FIVE GREAT DUTIES OF LENT.

1st. *Self-Examination.*—Of the whole past life, and especially of the actions of the year, since the last Lent.

2d. *Confession.*—As in the forms in the Prayer-Book, and in this Manual.

3d. *Stricter Life.*—Reflecting that Christ spent these forty days in the desert with the wild beasts.

4th. *Fasting and Self-Denial.*—Being very sparing both in meat and drink; and especially every Wednesday and Friday, and in

Holy Week : denying yourself pleasant things : wearing no new or gay clothes : bearing all trials patiently : praying more often, and watching your tongue, your thoughts, your temper, very closely.

5th. *Works of Mercy and Charity.*—Such as visiting sick friends ; saving as much as possible to give to the collections in church ; going to Divine service as often as you can, and doing everything to help and benefit your neighbors.

SCRIPTURE READING.

Choose for your reading when you have time :

1. Lamentations of Jeremiah.
2. Isaiah, chapter 52d, from 13th verse, and chapter 53d.
3. Daniel, chapter 9th.
4. The Book of Job.

THE SEVEN PENITENTIAL PSALMS.

You should read these very often in Lent. Take them as follows:

On Mondays	read the	6th.
" Tuesdays	"	32d.
" Wednesdays	"	38th.
" Thursdays	"	102d.
" Fridays	"	51st and 130th.
" Saturdays	"	143d.

REMEMBER:

That the more you humble yourself in Lent, the more glad you will be made by Easter when it comes:

That they who mourn for sin here are blest, for the LORD will comfort them:

That you may not live to see another Lent, and should therefore take care to spend this one aright.

Ash-Wednesday.

Rise early for prayer. Fast from one meal or two, as you can. Consider your sins, omissions and commissions. Go silent and thoughtful all the day through.

DEVOTIONS.

O LORD, deal not with us after our sins :

Neither reward us after our iniquities.

O LORD remember not our old sins :

Have mercy upon us soon, for we are brought very low.

Help us, O GOD our SAVIOUR:

And for the glory of Thy Name deliver us,

O LORD ; and be merciful unto our sins for Thy Name's sake.

O LORD, cleanse Thou me from my secret faults :

Keep Thy servant also from presumptuous sins.

O GOD, who castest not away the greatest sinner, but in loving pity art reconciled to him by penitence, mercifully regard our lowly supplications, and give us strength to fulfill Thy commandments. Amen.

O GOD, who desirest not the death of sinners but their repentance, most mercifully regard the weakness of our mortal nature, and strengthen us by Thy goodness; that of Thy Infinite mercy we may obtain pardon for our sins, steadfastness in Thy service, and finally enjoy the rewards promised to those who persevere unto the end; through our LORD JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

Holy Week.

THIS is the last week in Lent, and ends our preparation for Easter.

The first day is Palm Sunday, on which our LORD rode into Jerusalem on

an ass, and the people strewed branches and spread garments in the way, and the men and children cried Hosanna to Him.

But as He came in sight of Jerusalem He wept over it; and when He arrived at the city, many were angry with those who sang His praises.

Therefore think with thyself, if JESUS were to come, would He weep over thee, finding thee in hopeless sin?

Wouldst thou be glad to receive Him?

Art thou ready to receive Him?

On this day He came as a man, but soon He will come in the clouds, with all His holy Angels, Judge of quick and dead; hast thou received Him now so that thou canst meet Him then?

Collect.

O holy JESUS, who now dost come to my soul without Thy glory, lest I should faint and die; grant me so to

receive Thee, and ever to possess Thee, that in the great and terrible day I may rejoice at Thy appearance, and sing Hosanna with Thy redeemed, saying:

Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the LORD. Amen.

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK.

As the LORD went into the city in the morning of this day, He cursed the fruitless fig-tree, and going into the Temple, He cast out all that bought and sold, saying, My House shall be called the House of Prayer.

But hast not thou, O my soul, borne leaves and not fruit, fair words and show, but not deeds?

And hast thou made GOD'S house truly a house of prayer, not bringing worldly thoughts therein?

And the temple of the HOLY GHOST, which is thyself, hast thou filled it with covetous desires and evil thoughts?

Collects.

O holy and merciful SAVIOUR, Thou most worthy Judge Eternal, who as on this day didst curse the fig-tree bearing leaves and not fruit, take away from me all hollow, vain, and false show, and make me plenteously to bring forth the fruit of good works, and of Thee to be plenteously rewarded, through Thy merits, who with the FATHER and the HOLY GHOST, livest and reignest ever one GOD, world without end. Amen.

O merciful JESUS, who, with holy zeal, didst cleanse Thy Temple, and cast out everything that defiled; purge Thy Church from all worldly works, and cleanse the hearts of Thy people from all things that offend, that we may be a holy temple unto Thee. Amen.

TUESDAY IN HOLY-WEEK.

On this day the LORD taught for the last time in the Temple. All day long

His enemies watched Him and laid snares for His life. He spake many holy parables, and at last He left the Temple forever; and then sitting down upon the Mount of Olives, He taught His disciples about the Judgment which was soon coming on the guilty city, and at the end of the world upon all the earth.

O my soul, dost thou resist CHRIST'S teachings?

Will He forsake thee and leave thee in thy sins?

Dost thou look for the end, and art thou ready to leave all things to save thy soul?

Collects.

Blessed JESUS, who on this day didst bear such contradiction of sinners, grant to us, Thy servants, not to wish to be above our Master, but to be as our Master, even like Thee, our only LORD and SAVIOUR. Amen.

O Holy JESUS, Light of Light, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, grant us never to resist Thy blessed Word, but ever to hear when Thou dost speak, and to obey when we have heard. Amen.

O most merciful JESUS, who as on this day didst leave Thy Temple, and foretelling that not one stone should be left upon another, didst declare that Thine ancient Church should see Thy face no more; make us to know the day of our visitation; and never forsake us, lest we perish; but build up the waste places of Thy Church, and these our sinful souls, through Thy mercy, who with the FATHER and the SPIRIT, livest and reignest one GOD, world without end. Amen.

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY-WEEK.

This day the LORD of Heaven and earth was betrayed by His own disciple

Judas, to whom He had been so gracious, and sold for thirty pieces of silver, the value of a slave.

What more can be said against covetousness, or the awful danger of harboring any bosom sin? And who shall feel safe when not even all the twelve Apostles were saved?

Resolve then, by GOD'S help,
To cast out thy bosom sin,
To be content with such things as thou hast.

Collects.

Blessed JESUS, who as on this day wast sold into the hands of wicked men to redeem us from sin and death, root out of us the love of money, and make us content with such things as we have, through Thy merits, who with the FATHER and the HOLY GHOST, livest and reignest ever one GOD, world without end. Amen.

Blessed Jesus, who wast betrayed by Thine own familiar friend, grant us never to be false to Thee but, loving Thee above all things, to persevere unto the end, and to be found in the number of Thine elect, through Thy mercy, who with the FATHER and the HOLY GHOST, livest and reignest, ever one GOD, world without end. Amen.

THURSDAY IN HOLY-WEEK.

On the evening of this day the LORD washed the Disciples' feet, and then instituted the Sacrament of His Body and Blood, and gave His last teaching to His Apostles, leaving us His peace, and a new commandment, to love one another, and a promise of glory.

But hast thou been ready to stoop down and wait on others?

How much of thy sinful life didst thou spend before thou didst obey thy LORD's loving command, "Do this in remembrance of Me"?

And since thou didst begin to communicate, hast thou not been very cold, and sinned much, being more like a dead man than a living branch of Him?

Hast thou loved thy brethren as CHRIST loved thee?

Hast thou preserved CHRIST'S peace in thyself and with others?

Collects.

Blessed LORD, who as on this day didst wash the feet of Thy Disciples, grant us also to be ready to wash one another's feet, and gladly to minister to our brethren with great humility and love. Amen.

HOLY JESUS, who didst wash Thy Apostles' feet before the institution of the Sacrament of Thy most Holy Body and Blood, grant us never to approach with unclean hands, but washed with tears of true repentance, and purged

from an earthly mind so to come to Thine Altar in innocence. Amen.

By the wonderful mystery of Thy Holy Body and precious Blood; on the evening of this day appointed,

GOOD LORD, have mercy on us.

GOOD FRIDAY.

This is a day of dread, the most awful, the most blessed; full of fear and sorrow, full of hope and comfort.

For very early in the morning, and scarce past midnight, Our SAVIOUR suffered His dreadful agony in the garden; and prayed whilst His Disciples slept; and bore the kiss of Judas; and was seized by His enemies; and was forsaken by His friends. He was taken to the house of Annas, and put in bonds; then led away from Caiaphas; tried by the Jews; denied by St. Peter; falsely accused, condemned, smitten, and buffeted; then carried away to Pilate; and

before him accused again; sent to Herod and mocked by him; sent back to have a murderer preferred before Him by his own nation; condemned to die; stripped and scourged until the blood ran down from His mangled Sides and Back. A crown of thorns was put upon Him; and He was smitten on the Head, and spit upon, and mocked, and led away to be crucified, bearing His own Cross until He could bear it no longer. On Calvary He was stripped of His clothes and nailed to the cross; and then His Cross was dropped, with a terrible shock, into the hole made for it; and He was left, crucified between two thieves, to die.

These things were done before the hour of nine.

Now since all this was for us; since all this shame and agony was due to us, shall we forget it, and be cold and impenitent all this while? Shall we not rise up early, and fast, and weep and

pray, when we think of these things? Shall we not repent of the sins which crucified CHRIST, and watch Him in our hearts, until we know more of our great sins, and His unspeakable love?

PRAYERS BEFORE NINE O'CLOCK.

Our Father, &c.

LORD have mercy upon us;
CHRIST have mercy on us;
LORD have mercy upon us.
JESUS, praying in the garden,
Have mercy upon us.
JESUS, sweating great drops of blood,
Have mercy upon us.
JESUS, bound and brought before Annas and Caiaphas,
Have mercy upon us.
JESUS, blindfolded and smitten on Thy holy Face,
Have mercy upon us.
JESUS, brought before Pilate,
Have mercy upon us.

JESUS, sent unto Herod,
Have mercy upon us.
JESUS, set at nought by the men of war,
Have mercy upon us.
JESUS, preferred after Barabbas,
Have mercy upon us.
JESUS, given up to the Jews to be crucified,
Have mercy upon us.
JESUS, crowned with sharp-pointed thorns,
Have mercy upon us.
JESUS, clad in purple.
Have mercy upon us.
JESUS, led forth to the gaze of the multitude,
Have mercy upon us.
JESUS, meekly hearing the sentence of death,
Have mercy upon us.
JESUS, going forth bearing Thy Cross,
Have mercy upon us.
JESUS, fastened thereto with cruel nails,

Have mercy upon us.
JESUS, pouring forth Thy sacred blood,
Have mercy upon us.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD:

Between the hours of Nine and Twelve.

When the LORD was hanging upon the Cross, the soldiers parted His garments and cast lots for His vesture. The priests, and people, and passers-by, mocked Him as He hung: but He rebuked them not. He had only spoken once, and that was when they were nailing Him to the Cross, or fixing it in the ground, and then He said, "FATHER, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And now JESUS forgave the penitent thief, having power in heaven and earth even upon the Cross; and being full of love and feeling for others in the midst of His own agonies, He said, "Verily I say unto thee, to-

day shalt thou be with Me in Paradise." Not long after the LORD beheld His Mother and His beloved disciple St. John standing by the Cross, and spake again, saying to the Blessed Virgin, "Behold thy son"; to St. John, "Behold thy mother"; providing a home for His earthly parent and feeling for her even at such a time.

And then darkness came over the earth. For how could the sun shine, when the Sun of Righteousness was being overclouded in death? Heaven could not look on such a deed of darkness.

Yet it was our sin which crucified the LORD of glory. Ours was the shame; ours should have been the sorrow. O wonderful love, that He should have had the suffering, and we the salvation!

Devotions on the First Saying of our Lord on the Cross.

Father, forgive us. Alas! we knew

not what we did when we sinned so much against Thee.

O teach us, Holy JESUS, to forgive and love after the pattern of Thy marvelous mercy.

On the Second Saying.

Blessed JESUS, who didst give to the thief upon the Cross both penitence and pardon, help us to repent and believe, and to confess Thee in shame and pain and death, and finally come to Thine everlasting kingdom.

On the Third Saying.

Blessed JESUS, who from Thy Cross didst bid Thy disciple take Thy mother into his own home; may Thy Church always be the home of the afflicted, and may we be tender and dutiful to our relations and the aged.

THE PASSION OF THE LORD, FROM TWELVE O'CLOCK TO THREE O'CLOCK.

At the ninth hour, or three o'clock, JESUS cried with a loud voice, "My GOD, My GOD, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" So awful was the wrath of GOD which He bore for us.

And then being tortured with the thirst caused by his wounds, He cried, "I thirst!" but they gave Him vinegar to drink.

And when the time of the end drew near, He said, "It is finished!" His sufferings and our salvation were complete: and bowing His head, and crying with a loud voice, to show that He laid down His life Himself, so He gave up the Ghost, saying, "FATHER, into Thy Hands I commend My Spirit." JESUS died. The LORD of life died, that we might live.

Devotions upon the Fourth Saying.

O LORD, forsake us not. Carest Thou

not that we perish? We have forsaken Thee, but deprive us never of Thy grace, nor of Thy comfort, lest we come to nothing.

On the Fifth Saying.

Blessed LORD, who on the Cross didst thirst for our salvation, grant us never to come where we shall long in vain for one drop of cold water to cool our tongue; but thirsting here after righteousness, may we hereafter drink of Thy pleasures as out of a river.

On the Sixth Saying.

Blessed JESUS, finish Thou Thy work in us and by us before we die.

On the Seventh Saying.

FATHER, into Thy hands we commend our spirits. May we die to the world and to sin now, and live to holiness and Thee forever, through His merits who

died upon the Cross for us, Thy Son JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

ANCIENT PRAYERS UPON THE PASSION OF CHRIST.

I.

I adore Thee, Holy JESUS, hanging upon the Cross, and bearing on Thy venerable Head a crown of thorns; and I humbly beg by thy Cross to be delivered from the destroying angel.

II.

I adore Thee, Holy LORD JESUS, stretched upon the Cross, with five great wounds in Thy nailed Hands, and Feet, and pierced Side; and I humbly beg that Thy sad and ghastly wounds may be the healing medicine of my sin-sick soul.

III.

I adore Thee, Holy LORD JESUS, panting under the sad weight of the

sins of the world; and I humbly beg by that bitterness of sorrow, which Thy innocent soul suffered in that moment when It left the Body, have mercy upon my soul in the moment of her departure hence.

IV.

I adore Thee, Holy LORD JESUS, laid in the sepulchre, and anointed with myrrh and aloes; and I humbly beg that Thy death may be the life of my soul.

V.

O most Holy JESUS, Good Shepherd, who didst lay down Thy life for Thy sheep, save and preserve the righteous, call home the wicked, justify the penitent, have mercy upon all true believers, and upon me a miserable sinner. Amen.

FROM AFTER THREE ON GOOD FRIDAY.

When the Lord spake for the last

time, the veil of the Temple was rent, and the graves opened, whereby it was shown that Heaven was opened, and that the grave had lost its victory. Then the soldiers, coming to kill those who were hanging upon the Cross, in order that none might die such a death upon the great Sabbath of the Passover, found the thieves living, but the LORD dead. Nevertheless, one pierced His side with a spear, and thereout came Blood and Water, figures of the two Sacraments, Baptism and the Supper of the LORD. Then Joseph of Arimathea grew bold, and begged the Body of JESUS from Pilate and took It down, all mangled as It was, torn with the scourges, bruised by the reed, wasted with fasting, bloody from the wounds; this sacred Body of JESUS, so marred that one could scarce know It again, he took down, and with Nicodemus laid It in his own new tomb close by, wound in myrrh and aloes. There they laid

the LORD of Life, the LORD of Life lying cold in the tomb: and Mary Magdalene and the other Mary watched. But the Spirit of the LORD JESUS went down to the place of the dead, and the penitent thief with Him.

THE PRAYER.

O JESUS, Refuge of the afflicted, who for our sakes, having become obedient unto death, didst rest at the evening hour in Thy grave; grant that neither in life nor in death we be separated from Thee, but that when we die and are taken hence, we may be found worthy to rest in Thee and obtain Thy mercy at the last: who livest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN.

CHRIST, of Saints and Angels LORD,
This world's light, in Heaven adored,

Way and truth and life to all;
Peace and health to every son,
Whom Thy dying love hath won,
Man of Sorrows, Thee I call.

Open, LORD, Thy heart's deep cell,
Thou who know'st where mine doth dwell —
There, from Thee ere Hell can tear me,
World, or flesh, or fiend ensnare me,
Shrine my heart an offering free.
Panting for that refuge blest,
Where this restless heart may rest;
Nought save JESUS would I know,
Nought desire of things below,
Nothing love, dear LORD, but thee.

And when Death's dread port is near,
Then my sheltering Rock appear;
In that last overwhelming hour,
Haste with Thy all-saving power,
With Thy steadfast anchor come.
Oh, when Thou shalt call me hence,
JESU! rise, my soul's Defense!
Let Thy mercy's bow surround me,
Not Thy Judgment's blaze confound me,
Spare my deeds their righteous doom.

Easter-Eve.

THE Body of the LORD was still in the grave for us men; His soul still in the place of spirits for us.

Think, therefore, upon death, and prepare for it. Say often:

LORD, teach me to number my days.

Holy JESUS, may Thy death be my life.

May I die to the world, and live unto Thee.

Behold, I am baptized into the death of JESUS CHRIST, and all the world is dead to me, and I to the world.

Say also the Collect of the Day, and the following:

O GOD, who hast willed that we who are appointed to death should know neither the day nor the hour thereof; grant to us Thy servants, that we may

walk before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days, and finally depart in peace, and die in the LORD, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

HYMN FOR EASTER EVEN.

Resting from His work to-day,
In the tomb the Saviour lay;
Still He sleeps, from Head to Feet
Shrouded in the winding-sheet,
In the rocky tomb alone,
Hidden by the sealed stone.

Late at even there were seen,
Watching long, the Magdalene;
Early rose, as rested late,
By the sepulchre to wait,
In the holy garden glade,
Where her buried LORD was laid.

So with Thee, till life shall end
I would solemn vigil spend;
Let me hew Thee, LORD, a shrine,
In this stony heart of mine;
Where, in pure embalmed cell,
None but Thou may ever dwell.

Myrrh and spices will I bring,
True affection's offering ;
Close the door from sight and sound.
Of the busy world around ;
And in patient watch remain,
Till my LORD appear again.—Amen.

Easter Day.

THIS is the day of days ; this is th great Feast of the whole year. This the Morning of Salvation, and th Queen of all times and seasons.

On this day, shortly past midnigh JESUS CHRIST, the LORD of Glory, ro from the dead. He rose because it wa not possible for Him to be held c Death. He rose, because GOD th Father had said that His Soul shoul not be left in the place of departed spi its, and that His Body should not se corruption. He rose to give life to th world, and to make it sure that the who believe in Him, and truly serv

Him, shall at last rise from their graves, and like Him have the victory over Death and Hell.

Our LORD is not now dead. He is the LIVING GOD. He is the life of the world in His Resurrection. All who are baptized into Him, are members of His Body; and receive grace from that Flesh which rose from the grave, and which is in glory and great power in heaven.

Therefore rejoice on Easter-day more than at any other time of the year. Rejoice in pardon. Rejoice in being freed from the power of sin. Rejoice in the hope of your own resurrection. Let no earthly care be on your brow this day. Let no angry, restless thought be in your mind. Go to the House of GOD, and lift up your heart. Above all, be sure to join with all your soul and with all your strength in the service of the Holy Sacrament by which the LORD makes us sharers in His Res-

urrection, and gives immortality to our souls and bodies. For the Body and Blood of CHRIST, which we then eat and drink, are not those of one who is dead, but of Him who lives for evermore.

DEVOTIONS FOR EASTER DAY.

Morning.

Rise as early as you can, to praise Him who arose before dawn and left His tomb; and whose grave the holy women found empty when they came to it very early at the rising of the sun. Stand and say:

CHRIST is risen:
The LORD is risen indeed.

CHRIST, being raised from the dead, dieth no more. Death hath no dominion over him.

Amen. Alleluia.

Therefore, rejoice, ye Heavens;

And let all the Earth be glad.
Alleluia. Amen.

CHRIST is risen from the dead:
And become the First-Fruits of them that slept.
Great and marvelous are Thy works,
LORD GOD Almighty:
Just and true are Thy ways,
Thou King of Saints.

Who shall not fear Thee, and glorify Thy Name. For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the LORD; Thou only, O CHRIST, with the HOLY GHOST, art most high in the glory of GOD the Father. Amen.

Kneel down and say:

Our Father, &c.

Blessed JESUS, who didst burst the doors of the grave, and rise from the dead: Roll away the stone from our hearts, that we may rise with Thee. Amen.

Blessed JESUS, whom the holy women sought very early in the morning, grant us also to seek Thee from the first. Amen.

Blessed JESUS, who wast sought by Thy penitent Mary, who would not be comforted until she had found Thee, grant us also never to rest until we have found Thee; and finding Thee, never to lose Thee, until we ascend unto the FATHER. Amen.

Blessed LORD, whose holy Apostles ran to seek Thee, grant us to run the way of Thy Commandments, and be guided by Thy Holy Angels. Amen.

HYMN.

O sons and daughters of the KING,
The LORD of Heaven this day we sing,
Whose rising makes creation ring.
Alleluia!

On the first morning of the week,
Before the day began to break,
They went their buried LORD to seek.
Alleluia!

The holy women, faithful three,
Soon as the Sabbath set them free,
To embalm His Corpse came lovingly.
Alleluia!

An Angel clad in white was he,
That sat and spake unto the three,
"Your LORD is gone to Galilee."
Alleluia!

The dearly-loved Apostle, John,
Ran foremost: Peter following OL,
First entered in—But CHRIST was gone!
Alleluia!

That night the Apostles met in fear;—
Amidst them came their LORD most dear,
And said, "Peace be unto all here."
Alleluia!

But Thomas, when he after heard
That JESUS had fulfilled His word,
Still doubted if it were the LORD.
Alleluia!

"Thomas, behold My Side," saith He,
"My Hands, My Feet, My Body see,
And doubt not, but believe in me."
Alleluia!

He saw the Feet, the Hands, the Side!
No longer Thomas then denied;
"Thou art my LORD and GOD!" he cried.
Alleluia!

Blessed are they who have not seen,
While yet their faith has constant been;
In life eternal they shall reign.
Alleluia!

In this most holy day of days,
Be laud, and jubilee, and praise;
To GOD both hearts and voices raise.
Alleluia!

Our humble thanks to GOD we pay,
For all His gifts, this blessed day—
Gifts more than any tongue can say.
Alleluia!

Go as soon as possible to church. Make haste to give thanks to CHRIST and to GOD. Receive the Blessed Sacrament with the deepest delight and joy.

During the day say:

I adore, I praise and give thanks to Thee, O JESUS, SON of the living GOD, who for me didst rise from the dead,

and after forty days ascend, in the sight of Thy disciples, into heaven, and didst send the HOLY GHOST upon them; have mercy upon me, O LORD my GOD, and grant that, rising from my sins, I may walk before Thee in newness of life; and being daily renewed by Thy HOLY SPIRIT and filled by His Presence, I may serve Thee with a pure and steadfast heart, until I come to Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

EVENING.

Thou art worthy, O LORD, to receive glory, and honor, and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are, and were created.

By wicked hands they crucified and slew the LORD:
But GOD hath raised Him up.
They denied the Holy One, and killed the Prince of Life:
But GOD hath raised Him from the dead.

Glory be to Thee, O LORD, glory be to Thee :
For Thou wast dead,
But behold Thou art alive again for evermore, Amen.
And hast the keys of Hell and Death.

Blessing and honor, and glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the Throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN.

With gentle voice the Angel gave
The women tidings at the grave ;
Forthwith your Master shall you see :
He goes before to Galilee.

And while with fear and joy they pressed
To tell these tidings to the rest,
Their LORD, their living LORD, they meet,
And see His form, and kiss His Feet.

Th' eleven, when they hear, with speed
To Galilee forthwith proceed ;
That there they may behold once more
The LORD'S dear Face as oft afore.

In this our bright and Paschal day,
The sun shines out with purer ray ;
When CHRIST, to earthly sight made plain,
The glad Apostles see again.

The Wounds, the riven Wounds He shows
In that His Flesh with light that glows,
With public voice, both far and nigh,
The LORD's arising testify.

To Thee, Who dead, again dost live,
All glory, LORD, Thy people give :
All glory as is ever meet,
To FATHER and to Paraclete. Amen.

The forty days after Easter, until the Feast of the Ascension, are called "the Great Forty Days." In these the LORD taught His disciples about the Church which they were to build up in the earth He also filled them with faith and wisdom for the work which they had to do.

Pass this time in company with your Risen Saviour, and pray to be kept in joy and peace, dead to this world, and alive to the next.

Feast of the Ascension.

CALLED ALSO HOLY THURSDAY.

AFTER spending forty days on the earth with His people, the LORD went up to Heaven, whence He had come. He descended when He was GOD only. But when He went up again, He was Man also. In Him, this very nature of ours went up to Heaven, and is even now at GOD'S Right Hand. Heaven is opened to us: and now our risen and ascended LORD prays for us there, and, having all power in Heaven and earth, He gives us all things for the good of His Church.

Lift up thy thoughts to Heaven on Holy Thursday, or Ascension Day, and if it be possible, lift them up in GOD'S House; and in that highest service in which it is said:

Lift up your hearts.

And we reply:

We lift them up unto the LORD.

Think not of earth, for Heaven is thine. Long for it, pant after it. There, is no more pain nor sorrow. There, is no more sin. There, thou shalt see the saints, and the Holy Angels, and thy Blessed SAVIOUR, yea, GOD the FATHER, GOD the SON, and GOD the HOLY GHOST.

What is all earth to this? Strive only after Heaven. Reach up to it. Ascend thither now in heart and mind, that hereafter thou mayest ascend in body and soul, and dwell therein forever.

Practice this doctrine:

1. By trying to think of Heaven, and to long for it.

2. By putting away all anxious thoughts by the thought of Heaven.

3. By praying more earnestly, because CHRIST is praying for us in Heaven.

4. By doing nothing which will unfit you for Heaven, and everything which

comes into your mind which will prepare you for it.

DEVOTIONS.

The LORD is King, and hath put on glorious apparel.

The LORD hath put on His apparel, and girded Himself with strength.

Be Thou exalted, O GOD, above the heavens,
And Thy glory above the earth.
By Thy Ascension, O LORD,
Draw us, too, after Thee;
That we savor of what is above,
Not of things on the earth.

Grant, we beseech Thee, Almighty GOD, that like as we do believe Thine Only-Begotten Son, our LORD JESUS CHRIST, to have ascended into the heavens; so we may also in heart and mind thither ascend, and with Him continually dwell, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

HYMN.

Glory, glory to our King,
  Crowns unfading wreathe His head;
Jesus is the name we sing—
  Jesus, risen from the dead—
Jesus, conqueror o'er the grave—
Jesus, mighty now to save.

Jesus is gone up on high,
  Angels come to meet their King;
Shouts triumphant rend the sky,
  While the Victor's praise they sing:
"Open now the Heavenly gates,
'Tis the King of Glory waits!"

Jesus, on Thy children shine,
  Warm our hearts and tune our tongues,
That with angels we may join,
  Share their bliss, and swell their songs:
Glory, honor, praise and power,
Lord, be Thine for evermore!

Whitsunday.

THE LORD had promised that after He was ascended into Heaven, He would send down the Comforter to

dwell in His Church, so that it should not lose His Blessed Presence, but possess Him even more nearly and fully than when He was upon earth. For now He dwelleth unseen by us because within us; He is present in every Sacrament and means of grace, and in these He gives us by His Holy Spirit pardon of sin, and holiness, the seven-fold graces, the fruits of the Spirit. Yea, we are the temples of the HOLY GHOST. Well may we be full of fear, for he that defileth the temple of GOD, him shall GOD destroy. Well may we be full of joy also, and of hope, for we have Him in our hearts who will make us to triumph over every affliction and temptation if only we follow His gracious influence, Who will conform us to the image of the SON of GOD, and make us fit for His everlasting kingdom. On the eve of Whitsunday, that is to say, on the Saturday before, think over your many sins against the HOLY

GHOST; by what evil tempers you have grieved Him; by what thoughts, by what words, by what deeds; how holy you might have been and are not.

Be sure, if you can, to communicate upon Whitsunday, that being joined to your SAVIOUR by receiving His Body and Blood, His Spirit may flow into you, and fill you with holy desires and resolutions, and grace to fulfil the same.

DEVOTIONS.

O Thou who didst send down upon Thy disciples Thy Thrice Holy SPIRIT, withdraw not the gift, O LORD, from us, but day by day renew it in us, who ask it of Thee, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake, Thine only SON our LORD. Amen.

Grant us, O LORD, the fruits of Thy most Holy SPIRIT, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

Trinity Sunday.

THIS day closes the part of the Christian year in which the Church teaches us the truths of the Creed. We have seen how GOD the Father sent the Son to save sinners; and how GOD the Son died for us, and rose again from the dead, and went back to heaven; and how GOD the Holy Ghost comes down from heaven to make us holy, and to bring us back to our lost estate. And now, after all this, we come together, on this day, to worship the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, Three Persons in one GOD. This is a wonderful doctrine. We cannot understand it—nor need we. All we have to do is to believe.

Trinity Sunday is a day of Faith, and a day of Humility, and a day of Hope for greater knowledge in heaven, and a day of thankfulness to GOD for giving us this mystery to believe, and

for making us partakers of the benefit: for unto the Holy Trinity we were baptized; and in the name of the Holy Trinity the blessing of the Church is given; and in the Holy Communion we are brought near to GOD the FATHER, by partaking of God the SON, through the power of GOD the HOLY GHOST; to which holy Undivided Trinity, Three in One, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

MORNING DEVOTIONS.

The LORD is King, the earth may be glad thereof:
Yea, the multitude of the isles may be glad thereof.
Clouds and darkness are round about Him:
Righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His seat.

Our Father, &c.

Blessed art Thou, LORD, GOD of Israel, Our Father,

From everlasting to everlasting.
Thine, O LORD,
Is the greatness and the power,
The triumph and the victory,
The praise and the strength,
For Thou rulest over all,
In heaven and on earth.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY,
LORD, the GOD of Hosts,
Full is the whole Heaven,
And the whole earth,
Of the majesty of Thy Glory.

Holy Trinity, One GOD,
Have mercy upon us.

HYMN.

Thou ever blessed TRINITY!
Dwelling in Light, a mystery!
Thee we confess, in Thee believe,
To Thee with pious heart we cleave.

O FATHER, by Thy Saints adored!
O SON of GOD, the CHRIST, the LORD!
O HOLY SPIRIT, who dost join
FATHER and SON with love divine!

We know the FATHER in the SON;
That with the FATHER CHRIST is one:
The HOLY GHOST, the Paraclete,
With Both is One, in Both Complete.

Thou GOD the FATHER, GOD the SON,
And GOD the HOLY GHOST are One:
One perfect truth in TRINITY,
One holy love in UNITY.

O GOD the FATHER, GOD the SON,
And HOLY GHOST, in glory One!
Thee, LORD ALMIGHTY, we adore
With heart and voice for evermore.—
Amen.

EVENING PRAYER.

O GOD of Infinite Majesty and Greatness, FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT! Lo, with all humility I place myself before Thy Divine Majesty, in dread and fear. Do with me, O GOD, as Thou wilt: so that in me most perfectly Thy will may be fulfilled. Suffer me not to stray from the true faith of Thy most holy and awful name; but visit me with Thy salvation, now and evermore. Amen.

O, Blessed Trinity, hear us.
O, Adorable Trinity, hear us.
O, Thrice Holy, Blessed, and Glorious Trinity, hear us.
Let all Thy Angels and Saints bless Thee,
Praise Thee and glorify Thee forever.
Bless we the FATHER, and the SON, with the HOLY GHOST:
Praise we and magnify Him forever.

CONCLUSION.

Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, to Him be glory in the Church through Christ Jesus, unto all generations, world without end. Amen.

Praise our GOD, all ye His servants,
And ye that fear Him,
Both small and great.
Alleluia!

For the LORD GOD Omnipotent
reigneth.
Let us be glad, and rejoice, and give
honor to Him.
Behold the Tabernacle of GOD is with
men.
And He will dwell with them ;
And they shall be His people.
And GOD Himself shall be with them,
And shall wipe away all tears from
their eyes.
And there shall be no more death,
Neither crying, neither pain any more,
For the former things are passed away.

Sickness,

AND

THE WAY OF PREPARATION

FOR

DEATH.

Sickness.

THE Church tells us that sickness comes by the will of GOD, and that He means by it one of two things; either that your faith should be tried, or that you should be punished for your sins.

When sickness comes, the first thing is to know, if you can, why it was sent. This you can find out only in one way, by asking yourself what kind of life you led when you were well.

So the first duty in time of sickness is self-examination.

You will find a list of questions on page 41. Add to them these that follow:

While I was well, was my life holy, sober, quiet, and harmless, as that of a child of GOD?

How many years did I live without going to the Communion?

Did I keep in mind as well as I could, *where* I am, *what* I am, and whither I am going?

Or was I thoughtless, idle, careless about church, or in any great sin?

After this, confess your sins, as in the preparation for the Holy Communion.

If it should please the LORD to make you well soon, lose no time to give Him thanks in His Church.

But if you should get worse and have to stop your work and go to bed, then send at once for your minister.

Observe this: that if you are sick enough to need a doctor, you need no less the care and prayers of your minister. When he comes, take good heed to all he says, and do as he bids you in all things touching your soul; for he knows its sickness just as well as the doctor knows that of the body, and if you mind the one, you ought also to mind the other.

PRAYERS FOR THE USE OF THE SICK.

O LORD, who has laid me upon this bed of sickness, lay the desires of my heart to rest: make me patient and contented: to wait Thy time: to improve each hour of Thy visitation, and to abide in Thee; through JESUS CHRIST our Lord. Amen.

O most merciful FATHER, who hast laid me here, so that I can no longer go up to Thy house to worship with the people of the LORD, unite my prayers and thanksgivings to the service of the congregation, that by faith and love I may join with all saints in worshiping Thee, the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY GHOST, one GOD, world without end. Amen.

Blessed JESUS, who didst vouchsafe to visit those who could not come to Thee, and didst restore St Peter's wife's mother, and the sick man at Bethesda,

visit me also with Thy salvation: and be with me in all my afflictions, turning them to spiritual comforts and eternal joys, through Thy merits, who with the FATHER, and the HOLY GHOST, livest and reignest one GOD, world without end. Amen.

O LORD, who alone givest medicine to heal our sickness, add Thy blessing to the means now used to bring me back to health; and if it be Thy will, grant that I, being restored and made well again, may offer up my thanks in Thy holy Church, through our LORD JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS IN SICKNESS.

Isaiah, 38th chapter; Job, 14th chapter; St. John, 11th chapter to verse 47; Ecclesiastes, 12th chapter; St. Luke, 12th chapter, verses 16 to 34.

RULES TO KEEP IN SICKNESS.

1. Bear patiently what the LORD

sends; you are a sinner and deserve it all.

2. Be kind and gentle to all who take care of you.

3. Think always of CHRIST, His bitter agony, His death on the Cross.

4. Think that sin is the sickness of the soul.

5. Do not fret nor murmur, it is all for the best.

HOLY COMMUNION IN SICKNESS.

You need the Sacrament when ill as much as when well; for by the Body and Blood of the LORD, not only our *souls* do live, but we surely trust to win to our *bodies* a resurrection to glory.

Therefore, there is no time of your life when you need the Communion more than when you are sick. Some have received it as often as once a week when very sick. But this will be according to the advice of him who watches for your soul.

Prepare for the Sacrament with the greatest care, and desire with all your heart the comfort it is sure to bring.

ACT OF RESIGNATION

O holy JESU, I desire neither life nor death, but Thy will. Thou art the one, O LORD, that I look for; be it unto me as Thou wilt. If it be Thy good pleasure to have me die, receive my soul, and grant that in Thee and with Thee I may have eternal rest. If it be Thy will to have me live any longer upon the earth, give me grace to amend the rest of my life, and with good works to glorify Thy holy name: O Thou, who with the Father and the Holy Ghost, livest and reignest, ever one GOD, world without end. Amen.

Thoughts on Death,

AND HOW TO MEET IT.

Dear Christian soul, consider this,

that GOD has fixed the sum of your life and knows its end. You cannot change His mind nor alter His will.

So, then, to think about your last hour will not bring it any nearer, nor make it come any sooner. It comes when the LORD wills; neither sooner nor later, whether you are ready or unready, whether you think about it or not.

But what if death should come and find you not yet ready? O awful thought! O fearful state!

You must, then, make ready to die, although you may not, perhaps, die for a great many years, although you may live to be four-score.

Take care not to lose your soul, as very many have lost theirs, by a very silly notion. It is this, that if they send for a minister when they are first taken sick, they are more likely to die than if they do without one. None but a fool could think this. How can the

visit of a clergyman make you worse? What has it to do with your getting well? But if you should *not* get well, how much better that you sent for him!

If you find yourself very sick, and think that your life draws to its close, do all you can to make ready for the last hour.

But you should also try to do this when you are well. To this end, take one day in the week to think of death, and to pray GOD to give you a happy one, even the death of the righteous. Saturday is the day on which all Christ's people ought to think and pray about death, because on that day His dead Body lay in the tomb, and His soul was in the place of departed spirits.

No one can make ready to die as he ought without the help of the clergy. So be sure to do all they tell you, and you will learn better how to meet your change.

WHAT DEATH IS.

Death is the wages of sin. It is the sign of the wrath of GOD. It would never have been known in the world if men had not done wrong.

Take it, therefore, as something due to you for your many sins.

Death is the work of the Devil. Through his envy sin came into the world, and death by sin.

CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER DEATH.

Christ our LORD has overcome death. He has done this by dying Himself, and then rising from the grave. All who believe in Him shall, like Him, rise again, to live forever. He says, "I am the Resurrection and the Life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die."

Remember, then, that none are safe

but they who die *in the* LORD. This you must do. But to that end you must make yourself ready.

HOW TO DIE IN THE LORD.

The rule is this: Live to Him, and you will then be sure to die in Him. Fear Him, love Him, keep His commandments, receive His holy sacraments; put your whole trust in Him; and you are safe. But this is the work of a life.

PRAYERS FOR A HAPPY DEATH.

I.

O LORD GOD most holy; O LORD most mighty; O holy and most merciful Saviour; deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Thou knowest, LORD, the secrets of our hearts; shut not Thy merciful ears to our prayer; but spare us, LORD most holy, O GOD most mighty, O holy and

merciful Saviour, Thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from Thee. Amen.

II.

O God, who hast willed that I, who am appointed to death, should yet know neither the day nor the hour thereof: grant to me, Thy servant, that I may walk before Thee in holiness all my days, and at last depart in peace and die in the Lord: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

III.

A PRAYER TO THE LORD JESUS.

O holy and merciful Jesus, who for our sakes wast content to suffer death and to lie down in Thy grave: be with me in the moment of that last conflict on which all my eternity depends. Strengthen me, lest I fall under the

trial of that hour. Grant unto me that I may not be tempted above that I am able, but with the temptation make thou a way of escape from the hand of the Enemy at the time of my departure out of this world. Though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me. Call me hence when Thou wilt; but grant that I may go in the way of Thy footsteps, nothing doubting Thy divine power or Thy Fatherly love, O Holy and merciful JESU, Shepherd of the Flock, who was dead but art alive again for evermore. Amen.

O Saviour of the world, who by Thy Cross and Precious Blood hast redeemed us, save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O LORD.

IV.

LITANY.

LORD, have mercy,
CHRIST, have mercy,

LORD, have mercy.
From the gates of Hell,
Deliver my soul, O LORD.
Abide with me, O LORD,
For it is toward evening,
And the day is far spent
Of this fretful life.
Let Thy strength be made perfect,
In my weakness.
Life passeth away,
And cometh death.
Near as is the end of day,
So too the end of life.
I then also remembering it,
Beseech of Thee,
For the close of my life,
That Thou wouldst direct it in peace;
Christian, acceptable,
Sinless, shameless,
And if it please Thee, painless,
LORD, O LORD,
Gathering us Thy people together
Under the feet of Thine elect,
Only without shame and sins.

And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come;
And let him that heareth, say, Come:
And let him that is athirst, Come.
Amen;
Even so come, LORD JESUS.

HYMN.

O GOD, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne,
Thy Saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art GOD,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
  Bears all its sons away:
They fly forgotten, as a dream
  Dies at the opening day.

O GOD, our help in ages past,
  Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
  And our eternal home.

With such thoughts in thy heart, and with the love of GOD, *and with faith in Christ, and with sorrow for thy poor life (so much of it thrown away, so little of it good), go forth, O soul, to meet thy* GOD. *Fear not to descend into the flood of Death, which sweeps round the world, and is ready to bear thee also, whither thou knowest not. Yield thyself to its waves, knowing that thy* LORD *once passed through them. He is at hand, and will show thee the way beyond, and bring thee through in safety, when thou shalt have floated out of the sight of us who remain behind, and when from our side of the flood thou art seen no more.*

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